

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-67. (Canceled).

68. (New) A mask system for treating sleep disordered breathing, comprising:

a flexible shell and cushion unit including a cushion portion forming a seal with a patient in use, and including a shell portion, the shell portion including at least one frame-receiving channel and an aperture centrally located on the shell portion, the flexible shell and cushion unit being an integral single piece of silicone defining an interior breathing chamber;

a rigid frame including frame edges shaped to fit into the at least one frame-receiving channel, the frame supporting the shell and cushion unit in use, the frame edges including projecting frame ribs, the frame having a first side portion and a second side portion;

a rigid ring-shaped member including a rear end positioned at least partially within the aperture of the shell portion to communicate with the interior of the breathing chamber, the ring-shaped member including an annular front flange, the rear end having an outer circumferential surface that engages with an inner circumferential surface defined by a wall of the aperture;

a rotatable elbow having a first end and a second end, the first end including a groove or recess provided to and engaging with the annular front flange of the ring-shaped member;

a swivel provided to the second end of the rotatable elbow, the swivel including a first end adapted to engage with the elbow, and the swivel having a second end adapted to engage an air delivery conduit;

a plurality of vent holes provided in the shell portion;

four headgear attachment points formed on the frame, a first pair of the four headgear attachment points being provided on the first side portion of the frame, and a second pair of the four headgear attachment points being provided on the second side portion of the frame; and

four-point headgear attached to the four headgear attachment points in use, the four-point headgear including strap end portions being adapted to be threaded through one or more slots associated with the headgear attachment points,

wherein the mask system does not have a forehead support.

69. (New) The mask system of claim 68, the ring-shaped member and the frame being formed from a common material.

70. (New) The mask system of claim 69, wherein the elbow is formed from either polycarbonate or polypropylene.

71. (New) The mask system of claim 70, wherein the ring-shaped member is separate from the frame.

72. (New) The mask system of claim 68, wherein the aperture of the shell portion is provided between the headgear attachment points.

73. (New) The mask system of claim 68, wherein the plurality of vent holes are grouped in an array of vent holes.

74. (New) The mask system of claim 73, wherein the array of vent holes comprises four vent holes.

75. (New) The mask system of claim 68, further comprising reinforcing ribs provided to the shell and cushion unit.

76. (New) The mask system of claim 75, wherein the reinforcing ribs have a greater thickness than adjacent portions of the shell and cushion unit.

77. (New) The mask system of claim 68, wherein the headgear attachment points include upper headgear attachment points and lower headgear attachment points, and the aperture of the shell portion is provided generally between the lower headgear attachment points.

78. (New) The mask system of claim 68, wherein an exterior surface of the shell and cushion unit includes a finish to increase comfort.

79. (New) The mask system according to claim 68, wherein the frame and the ring-shaped member have a common rigidity.

80. (New) The mask system according to claim 68, wherein the four-point headgear includes four straps including a pair of lower straps and a pair of upper straps, the lower straps

being positioned below a patient's ears in use, the upper straps being positioned above the patient's ears in use.

81. (New) The mask system according to claim 68, wherein the elbow includes an approximately 90° bend between the first and second ends thereof.

82. (New) A mask system for treating sleep disordered breathing, comprising:
a flexible shell and cushion unit including a cushion portion forming a seal with a patient in use, and including a shell portion, the shell portion including at least one frame-receiving channel and an aperture centrally located on the shell portion, the flexible shell and cushion unit being an integral single piece of silicone;

a rigid frame including frame edges shaped to fit into the at least one frame-receiving channel, the frame supporting the shell and cushion unit in use, the frame edges including projecting frame ribs, the frame having a first side portion and a second side portion;

a rigid ring-shaped member positioned at least partially within the aperture of the shell portion to communicate with an interior of the mask system, the ring-shaped member including an annular front flange;

a rotatable elbow having a first end and a second end, the first end including a recess or groove provided to and engaging with the annular front flange of the ring-shaped member;

a swivel provided to the second end of the elbow, the swivel having a first end and adapted to engage with the elbow, and a second end adapted to engage an air delivery conduit;
and

a plurality of vent holes provided in the shell and cushion unit,

wherein the mask system does not have a forehead support.

83. (New) The mask system of claim 82, the ring-shaped member and the frame being formed from a common material.

84. (New) The mask system of claim 83, wherein the elbow is formed from either polycarbonate or polypropylene.

85. (New) The mask system of claim 84, wherein the ring-shaped member is separate from the frame.

86. (New) The mask system of claim 82, wherein the plurality of vent holes are grouped in an array of vent holes.

87. (New) The mask system of claim 86, wherein the array of vent holes comprises four vent holes.

88. (New) The mask system of claim 82, further comprising reinforcing ribs provided to the cushion and shell unit.

89. (New) The mask system of claim 88, wherein the reinforcing ribs have a greater thickness than adjacent portions of the shell and cushion unit.

90. (New) The mask system of claim 82, further comprising headgear attachment points provided on the frame.

91. (New) The mask system of claim 90, wherein the headgear attachment points include upper headgear attachment points and lower headgear attachment points, and the aperture of the shell portion is provided generally between the lower headgear attachment points.

92. (New) The mask system according to claim 91, further comprising headgear having four straps including a pair of lower straps and a pair of upper straps, the lower straps being positioned below a patient's ears in use, the upper straps being positioned above the patient's ears in use.

93. (New) The mask system according to claim 82, wherein the frame has a same rigidity as the ring-shaped member.

94. (New) The mask system according to claim 82, wherein the elbow includes an approximately 90° bend between the first and second ends thereof.

95. (New) A mask system for treating sleep disordered breathing, comprising:
a flexible shell and cushion unit including a cushion portion forming a seal with a patient in use, and including a shell portion, the shell portion including at least one frame-receiving channel and an aperture centrally located on the shell portion;

a rigid frame including frame edges shaped to fit into the at least one frame-receiving channel, the frame supporting the shell and cushion unit in use, the frame having a first side portion and a second side portion;

a rigid ring-shaped member positioned at least partially within the aperture of the shell portion to communicate with the interior of the mask system;

a rotatable elbow having a first end and a second end, the first end engaging with and supported by the ring-shaped member;

a swivel provided to the second end of the rotatable elbow, the swivel including a first end adapted to engage with the elbow, and the swivel having a second end adapted to engage an air delivery conduit;

a plurality of vent holes provided in the shell portion;

headgear attachment points formed on the frame, a first pair of the headgear attachment points being provided on the first side portion of the frame, and a second pair of the headgear attachment points being provided on the second side portion of the frame; and

headgear attached to the headgear attachment points in use, wherein the aperture of the shell portion is provided generally between the headgear attachment points.

96. (New) The mask system according to claim 95, the ring-shaped member and the frame being formed from a common material.

97. (New) The mask system according to claim 95, wherein the ring-shaped member is separate from the frame.

98. (New) The mask system according to claim 95, wherein the plurality of vent holes are grouped in an array of vent holes.

99. (New) The mask system according to claim 95, further comprising reinforcing ribs provided to the shell and cushion unit.

100. (New) The mask system according to claim 99, wherein the reinforcing ribs have a greater thickness than adjacent portions of the shell and cushion unit.

101. (New) The mask system according to claim 95, wherein the mask system does not have a forehead support.

102. (New) The mask system according to claim 95, wherein the frame edges include projecting frame ribs.

103. (New) The mask system according to claim 95, wherein the flexible shell and cushion unit is an integral single piece of silicone.

104. (New) The mask system according to claim 95, wherein the headgear attachment points include upper headgear attachment points and lower headgear attachment points, and the aperture of the shell portion is provided generally between the lower headgear attachment points.